

Dear G6 Family and Friends:

I trust that this letter finds all well with our families and friends back in Central Texas and other areas back in the States. However, before I go any further, I must first apologize for my lack of letter writing over the past several months. Our work load has been enormous and there have been a lot of activity in and around Baghdad, but I should have written a little bit more. I will try and make up for it in the coming months.

I must tell you all that our soldiers continue to work hard and perform near miracles on a daily basis. I equate the challenges that we are faced with as being graduate level work. It takes a tremendous amount of effort and teamwork as we continue to operate the largest JNN divisional network that the Army has fielded to date. MAJ Darryl Stewart and his team consisting of newly promoted MAJ Alan Dinerman, Chiefs Studer and CQ, SFC Galyon, SSG Heiser, and SGT Christianson have done wonders with monitoring our network. In addition, we continue to improve and expand our data services while at the same time safeguarding that data. MAJ Jerry Martin, MAJ Jim Hardy, SFC Boyd and Cook, SSGs Scott, Jensen and Sparrow along with their team of dedicated 25Bs are also performing feats of magic with the number of email accounts that they have created and are monitoring as well as the number of work orders that they process on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis.

Our mission here continues to provide support to the Iraqi Government as they continue to solidify their country and assume more responsibility for their security. We continue to see positive trends every day that the situation here continues to improve. The President's recent visit and the security measures that the new Iraqi Prime Minister is putting into motion will continue to establish a safer Baghdad and Iraq.

We have had several new additions to the G6 team over the past few months. MSG Manning and MSG Gutchak arrived to us and are doing an incredible job in the newly formed Network Operations Center. In addition, SSG Brooks arrived from Ft Hood and he has jumped right in with our VTC operations team. Unfortunately, we had to bid farewell to several members of the team as well. CPT Jill Stack left at the end of May to take a S6 position in the Aviation Brigade and CPT Mike Peterson will depart at the end of June to take a S6 position in 1<sup>st</sup> BCT. CPT Matt Morey will return to the States for some medical tests and we all hope and pray that all is well with him.

I have heard that summer is in full swing back at Ft Hood. However, the weather here continues to get hot as well, with the average daily temperature reaching 115 degrees plus. We anticipate that the temperature will continue to rise as we get further into the summer with no break until the September time frame.

Our environmental leave program continues and from the comments that I get from those that are returning is that those few weeks spent away from here are more than well worth it. We continue to get our maximum number of soldiers out each month, and because we took advantage of the program early, we are anticipating that we will have every G6 soldier take advantage of the leave program. I anticipate that by September we

will have over 95% of our soldiers complete with leave and that will leave myself and the SGM to complete our leave prior to our preparation for redeployment.

Now one thing that is starting to get a little tiring is the food in the dining facility. There is always one thing that you can count on being on the menu in some shape or fashion, and that is chicken. For every meal!! I think that one we can be certain of is that chicken WON'T be on the menu when we get home. However, I can say that everyone in the section has been spending some quality time in the gym working out and getting really buff for their EML and to return home.

Although we are focused on our primary mission, we are starting our planning process for our much anticipated return home. With 150 days remaining (plus or minus) we have already crossed over the halfway point, we can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. We are working hard with our counterparts in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div to help them make their deployment and transition with us as smooth as possible. Over the course of the next few months we will focus a little more on redeployment and we will begin to let our families know what to expect.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to let me know. I truly hope that every one has a great summer.

Sincerely

LTC Douglas Babb